

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 076499

53

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 /016 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: APSHANKLE

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: APSHANKLE

----- 119451

O 041746Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076499

TOSEC 13

WHITE HOUSE PASS PALMS SPRINGS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FOL REPEAT OF SAIGON 4270 TO SECSTATE INFO SINGAPORE BANGKOK
HONG KONG APR 04

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR PINS VS

KSUBJECT: EVACUATION PLANS OF AMERICAN BANKS

REF: (A) STATE 076205 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 076259 (NOTAL)

1. BANK MANAGERS IN SAIGON REQUESTED PANAM CHARTER BE DELAYED TO ARRIVE MORNING 5 APRIL SINCE THEY AGREE EMB JUDGEMENT THAT CONDITIONS HERE DO NOT WARRANT A PRECIPITOUS EVACUATION. NEVER- THE LESS, FNCB HQTRS NEW YORK OVERRULED LOCAL MANAGER AND ORDERED PLANE FORWARD AND FNCB MANAGER TO BOARD IT THIS AFTERNOON WITH OR WITHOUT MANAGERS OF OTHER BANKS.

2. LOCAL MANAGERS HAVE RECEIVED IMPRESSION THROUGH CRYPTIC COMMENTS IN THEIR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS WITH NY AND HONG KONG THAT EVENTS OF WHICH THEY WERE UNAWARE REQUIRE IMMEDIATE DEPAR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 076499

TURE. ALL WERE REFERRED TO REF A FOR MORE COMPLETE EXPLANATION.

ALL SEEMED TO THINK THAT EVACUATION DECISION COORDINATED WITH
USG; AND FNCB REP HAD IMPRESSION THAT HQTRS WAS ACTING AT
URGING OF USG.

3. WE HAVE ASSURED BANK MANAGERS THAT WE KNOW OF NOTHING THAT
REQUIRES THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. THEY INTEND TO DEPART 2030
HOURS LOCAL FOR HONG KONG ON PANAM CHARTER. IF QUERIED, WE WILL
REPLY THAT EXPATRIATE STAFF AT BANKS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CALLED
TO HONG KONG FOR CONSULTATIONS. BANKS WILL REMAIN FOR OPERATIONS.

4. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT WHOEVER PUSHED THE PANIC BUTTON AT
FNCB IN NY DID NOT DO SO AT THE BEHEST OF ANY USG OFFICIAL IN
WASHINGTON. CERAINLY, NO ONE IN SAIGON HAS SO ADVISED THEM,
NOR DO THE MANAGERS THEMSELVES FEEL THAT SUCH A HASTY DEPARTURE
IS NEEDED. ALTHOUGH WE ARE THINNING OUT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE,
WE DO NOT NOW JUDGE THAT SUCH EMERGENCY EVACUATION IS WARRANTED.
SHOULD A FIRM DECIDE ON THEIR OWN TO DEPART, WE ASK ONLY THAT
IT BE DONE IN AS ORDERLY AND QUIET A MANNER AS POSSIBLE.
REQUEST DEPTOFFS AND POST OFFICERS STRESS THIS POINT IN
ALL DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT.

5. SINCE CHARTER PANAM 707 NOW ON GROUND, PRIVATE AIRCRAFT
CITED REF B NOT REQUIRED.

6. BANK MANAGERS HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD THAT THEIR VIETNAMESE
NOTIONALS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN EMBASSY'S E AND E AND E PLAN,
IF AND WHEN EVACUATION BECAME NECESSARY. WE WILL, OF COURSE,
HELP RIORDAN, BUT IT IS NOT A DAY IN WHICH THE AMERICAN BANKING
COMMUNITY IN SEA WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THE COURAGE OF ITS HOME
OFFICES. BRITISH, FRENCH AND OTHER BANKS WILL NOW TAKE OVER.

7. AS THIS IS SENT, WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT AIR FORCE C-5
HAD ITS BACK COMPRESSOR DOOR BLOW OUT FREEZING ITS AILERONS 50-60
MILES AFTER TAKING OFF FROM SAIGON. IT TRIED TO MAKE IT BACK TO
TSN WITH THE 243 ORPHANS AND 43 OF OUR PEOPLE ABOARD. PLANE
LANDED IN SWAMP, FLIPPED OVER, BROKE OPEN AND BURNED. WE DO
NOT YET KNOW HOW MANY HAVE SURVIVED.

8. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS WHOLLY MECHANICAL FAILURE
WITH NO EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND OF ENEMY ACTION. THAT PLANE SHOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 076499

HAVE BEEN LOADED WITH HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, NOT ORPHANS WHO COULD
HAVE COME ON PLANE BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE PEOPLE. WE FERVENTLY
HOPE THAT THOSE WHO, WITHOUT CONSULTING US, HAVE BEEN ADVISING
THE PRESIDENT, THE BANKS AND THE VOLAGS THAT EVACUATION FROM
SAIGON IS NEEDED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED SLEEP WELL TONIGHT.
WE WON'T. WE HAVE TO GO TO THE MEMORIAL SERVICE TOMORROW MORNING.

9. WE THINK IT MIGHT BE EMORMOUSLY USEFUL IF THE PANIC BUTTON

IN WASHINGTON WAS FIRMLY LOCKED UP.
MARTIN UNQTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY PLANNING, EVACUATIONS, BANK BRANCHES, TOSEC 013
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE076499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: APSHANKLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750117-0557
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750480/aaaacuwv.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 076205, 75 (NOTA STATE 076259
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION PLANS OF AMERICAN BANKS
TAGS: AEMR, PINS, EFIN, VS, US
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006